



# The TURNTABLE

March 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

## Upcoming Events

**March 1**

GCOR & Exam/ 8am-4pm

**March 14**

Interpretive Training/ 9-3pm

Brakeman's Academy/8-5pm

**March 15**

Brakeman's Academy/8-5pm

**March 21**

Fire Patrol Class/ 9am-4pm

**\*Murphy's Irish Days Booth**

**March 28**

Car Host Training &  
pre-season practice trains  
9-3pm

**April 4 & 5**

Excursion season begins!

**April 7**

Railtown Ladies' Luncheon  
At Papa's Roost, East Sonora  
Call Dottie for info: 533-8483

**April 11 & 18**

Wildflower Trains @ 3:30pm

**April 11 & 12**

Home & Garden Show  
Sonora Fairgrounds

**May 2 & 3**

Special event. CSRMF mem-  
bers will be here for Behind  
the Scenes Tours all day  
Saturday and Sunday

**May 5**

Railtown Ladies' Luncheon  
At Cover's Apple Ranch  
Call Dottie for info: 533-8483

**June 6**

Annual Singing Rails Festival  
and Competition celebrating  
the lore of the railroad in song  
Featured this year: The Black  
Irish Band and The Sierra  
Mountain Band

**\*NOTES:** Due to Virgil's Cele-  
bration of Life, we have post-  
poned Dave Conner's 'Giving  
A Model Tour' on March 14 at  
1pm to a later date TBA

Daylight Savings time is this  
weekend. Don't forget to set  
your clocks forward 1 hour

## Show and Tell Interpretation vs. The Bigger Picture

Phil Sexton's workshop on February 28 was an excellent way of understanding how to go beyond the immediate object in hand and discovering the bigger thematic meaning behind the object in view. For example, my team had to interpret a carpenter's scribe. At first we discussed the obvious practical uses for the instrument. After that we realized its bigger implications: 1. the technology goes all the way back to ancient Egyptian times, 2. It's an example of how this ancient technology is still in use today and hasn't changed much, 3. Moses and Jesus, if they indeed worked at the carpenters trade or were around it, would have used a similar one of these. By looking deeper at a show and tell object, we then delved into the more thematic interpretation. And so it is at Railtown, with so much to show and tell, we need to look deeper into the stories of our objects and connect them to the bigger thematic picture that we are trying to present.



## Does Your Interpretation Go Beyond 'Show & Tell'?



With so much to show and tell our visitors, it's easy to just be an 'info-entertainer'. But our goal should be to help connect the visitors to the bigger themes of why Railtown matters and how we are helping to preserve the steam locomotive era and the importance of the short line railroad, not just for Tuolumne County, but for America.







## Remembering Virgil

from Darryl Bramlette

*We lost a great supporter, volunteer, and advocate last week. Virgil Lovingfoss was one of a small group of volunteers, (Railtown 1897 Docent Association) along with his wife Marge. For years before the State took over the management of Railtown, the volunteers, the Railtown 1897 Docent Association and the Sierra Railway Historical Society, had been dedicated to the historic preservation, restoration, interpretation and the continued*



*operation of Railtown 1897 State Historic Park as a living museum. The volunteers contributed tens of thousands of hours in an unprecedented dedication to the preservation of Railtown 1897. The Railtown 1897 Docent Association ran special events such as: Vignettes of old time railroading activity and of movies that were filmed on the Sierra Railroad; and special trains such as the Supper Special (dinner served on the train), the Twilight Limited (train ride and dinner in the park), the Wine and Cheese Zephyr (which included a BBQ served in the park), and the New Year's Eve Special (with a prime rib dinner, live band and champagne at midnight). In 2009, he was the recipient of the prestigious volunteer medallion for his many years of dedicated service, but we will most miss his impish smile and positive attitude. He would have been 92 years old this month. **\*Note: Virgil's Celebration of Life will take place at the Country Cowboy Church on Peaceful Valley Road in East Sonora (behind the Subaru Dealership on Saturday, March 14 starting at 1pm. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share.***





## Railtown News

### **Schedule of Our Remaining Training Dates:**

Saturday, March 14: Brakeman's Academy/ 8am-5pm/ Crew Center & main yard  
 Saturday, March 14: Interpretive Training Sessions/ 9am-3pm/ Carriage Room  
 Sunday, March 15: Brakeman's Academy/ 8am-5pm/ Crew Center & main yard  
 Saturday, March 21: Fire Patrol Class/ 9am-4pm/ Carriage Room & speeder shed  
 Saturday, March 28: Car Host Training/ 9am-3pm/ Carriage Room & train rides

### **Fire Patrol Training Class**

Anthony LaNotte will be leading the training for all those interested in working Fire Patrol this year. When: Saturday, March 21, from 9am to 4pm. Meeting starts in the Carriage Room

### **Dave Connery's 'Angels Branch of the Sierra Railway'**

Will be presented at the Angels Camp Museum, Sunday, March 22nd at 2pm

### **Pre-Season Practise Day**

Car Host training takes place on Saturday, March 28 from 8am to 4pm.

A special feature this year will be a session at noon with Jim Hatler, owner of the rock quarry. He will be giving us a personal explanation of what our visitors see when the train arrives at the quarry.

### **New Excursion Train Ride Times Announced**

Starting with this year's excursion train rides in April, the new departure times will be 10:30am, Noon, 1:30pm and 3pm. Guided tours beginning in the Waiting Room will take place 5 minutes after each train departure, 10:35, 12:05, 1:35 and 3:05.

### **Opening Weekend Entertainment**

Excursion season begins Saturday and Sunday, April 4th and 5th. Residents of Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa Counties will be able to ride free. We're running the No. 3 both days. Saturday's entertainment from 10am-1pm will be The Lava Cats. On Sunday we will be treated to the sounds of Swing Gitane and their vintage jazz.

### **Interpretive Improvement Team**

The next meeting of the new Railtown Interpretive Improvement Team is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 8-10:30am. If you'd like to participate, call or email Kim or Dave.



**Seated from left to right:** Paul McNaul, David Ethier, Kim Baker, Nancy Bull, Jeanette Foster;  
**Standing from left to right:** Bob Rhoades, Joe Yonan, Karen Ethier, Ron White, Adelle Yonan, Bill Baum, Dave Rainwater, Karen Kling, David Deutsch, Dave Connery, Jerry Tannhauser, Tom Pitta, Joe Sparagna, Craig Konklin and Jerry Redfern

### **Telling The Railtown Story Series Schedule of Presenters in March**

**Saturday, March 14:** 9-10:30am/Dave Connery/ History of the Sierra Railway; 10:30-Noon/David & Stephanie Tadlock/ How Steam Locomotives Work; Noon-1pm/Lunch; **\*Note:** Due to Virgil's Celebration, the model tour at 1pm with Dave Connery has been postponed and will take place at a later date.

**Saturday, March 28:** 8-10:30am/Dave Connery & Dieter Teschke/ Car Host Training/ Carriage Room  
 10:30am-1:30pm Practice Train (volunteers only); 2-3pm Practice Train (with passengers); 3-4pm 'Graduation Party' to celebrate our new volunteers who have joined us this year. Refreshments will be served (cake & ice cream).



**PO Box 1250**  
**Jamestown, CA 95327**  
**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**



**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953  
**Volunteer Desk-** (209) 984-4408  
**Volunteer Website-** <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>  
**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)  
**Newsletter Editor—** [Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov)  
**Crew Caboose-** (209) 984-0352



### **Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*(all area codes are 209)*

<b>Kim Baker</b> , Park Superintendent	984-4622	<a href="mailto:Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov">Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	<a href="mailto:George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov">George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa DeLacy</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	<a href="mailto:Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov">Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Karen Kling</b> , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	<a href="mailto:Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov">Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ryan Richelson</b> , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	<a href="mailto:Ryan.Richelson@parks.ca.gov">Ryan.Richelson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	<a href="mailto:Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov">Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	<a href="mailto:Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov">Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	<a href="mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov">Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>(TBA)</b> Fire Patrol Coordinator		
<b>Karen Ethier</b> , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	<a href="mailto:kmethier@gmail.com">kmethier@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ron White</b> , Stationmaster Coordinator	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>